

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06797 020829Z

ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 /008 W
-----043072 020844Z /21

P 020815Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2666

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, KS, US

SUBJECT: STATUS OF MARYKNOLL MISSIONARY

REF: STATE 191806; B) STATE 192769; C) SEOUL 6742

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED VISA SITUATION WITH FATHER MARTIN LOWERY ON JULY 31 AND AUGUST 2. FATHER LOWERY CAN LEAVE KOREA WHENEVER HE WISHES. HOWEVER, HIS RESIDENCE PERMIT EXPIRES AT THE END OF AUGUST AND HE HAS APPLIED FOR ADVANCE RENEWAL BEFORE HE LEAVES TO ATTEND MARYKNOLL CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK AND ENGAGE IN RELATED TRAVEL. HE INITIATED ACTION NOW SO THAT HE WILL NOT HAVE TO APPLY FOR THIS DOCUMENTATION FROM ABROAD. FR. LOWERY IS CONCERNED THAT THERE MAY BE DELAY IN PROCESSING OF HIS APPLICATION DUE TO POSSIBLE ROKG DESIRE TO SHOW DISPLEASURE OVER HIS ACTIVITIES HERE, BUT HE NOTED TOO THAT THERE IS A GREAT BACKLOG OF PERMIT RENEWAL APPLICATION AT THIS TIME BECAUSE SUMMER HOLIDAY SEASON IS HERE. SINCE FR. LOWERY'S PERMIT EXPIRES AT THE END OF AUGUST, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IT IS RECEIVING LOWER PRIORITY THAN APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS EXP-

IRING BEFORE THAT DATE.

2. FR. LOWERY SAID HE WOULD KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED OF PROGRESS OF HIS APPLICATION AND MIGHT, IF SITUATION CALLS FOR IT, REQUEST EMBASSY PUT IN GOOD WORD ON HIS BEHALF

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WITH ROKG.

3. FR. LOWERY SEEMS TO DIVIDE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MARYKNOLL CONFERENCE INTO TWO PARTS. EMBOFF'S IMPRESSION IS THAT FR. LOWERY FEELS LESS URGENCY ABOUT FIRST PART, WHICH IS NOW UNDERWAY, BUT PLACES MORE IMPORTANCE ON SECOND PART WHICH APPARENTLY WILL TAKE PLACE LATER THIS

MONTH OR NEXT MONTH. OBVIOUSLY HE WOULD PREFER TO
PARTICIPATE IN FULL RANGE OF ACTIVITIES BUT HE DOES NOT
YET SEEM TO FEEL THAT DELAY THUS FAR EXPERIENCED WILL
PREVENT HIM FROM MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE.
GLEYSTEEN

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Message Attributes

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